

Drought Response Technical Advisory Committee

DRAFT

**Meeting Summary
February 13, 2003
10:00 AM – 3:30 PM**

Attendance:

Drought Response Technical Advisory Committee Members

Al Williams, City of Portsmouth; Art Petrini, County of Henrico; Dave DuGoff, Mid-Atlantic Car Wash Assoc.; Dave Hancock, National Spa and Pool Institute; Donna Johnson, VA Agribusiness Council; Jeri LeMay, VA Green Industry Council; John Haley, VA Golf Course Superintendents Assoc.; Josh Rubenstein, VA Rural Water Assoc.; Mike McEvoy, AWWA; Ron Harris, VML; Randy Buchanan, VA Sports Turf Managers Assoc.; Richard McDonnell, VA Hospitality and Travel Assoc.; Robert Royall, VA Water Well Assn.; Sabrina Martyn, Town of Orange; Shelton Miles, Roanoke River Landowners Assoc.; Sheryl Raulston, VA Manufacturers Assn., Wilmer Stoneman, VA Farm Bureau Federation; Chris Adkins, VA Dept. of Health, LTC David Dougherty, US Army Corps of Engineers; Dana Sweet, VA Irrigation Assoc.; William S. Bullard, Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic

In addition several members of the Virginia Drought Monitoring Task Force attended the meeting including:

Don Hayes, USGS; Jerry Peaks, VA Department of Health; Pat Michaels, State Climatology Office; Roy Seward, VDACS; Dave Luckritz, USDA; John Miller, VDOF; Bill Sammler, NWS; Keith Lynch, NWS; Gary Martel, VDGIF; Terry Wagner, DEQ; Scott Kudlas, DEQ

Discussion:

Terry Wagner of DEQ and David Paylor, the Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources introduced the task before the TAC. Mr. Paylor reviewed how the state got to this point and what lies ahead. He reminded the TAC of the challenge before them:

- (1) establish how we know when we are in a drought;
- (2) develop criteria for responses; and
- (3) recommend a response plan.

Mr. Paylor indicated that the priority for the TAC is to develop and submit a recommended plan for 2003 by April 1, 2003.

Terry Wagner began by reviewing current conditions relating to the drought and his concern that while there was good rainfall in the fall of 2002 the potential for drought in the summer of 2003 is still a possibility.

Mr. Wagner opened the business portion of the agenda by discussing the need for the TAC to address:

- (1) monitoring needs and potential improvements;
- (2) drought triggers that identify when actions need to be taken; and
- (3) what types of actions are to be taken at what level of drought.

Presentations were made by Don Hayes of USGS on VA's streamflow and ground water monitoring network and the limitations of this data; Jerry Peaks of the VA Dept. of Health on available drinking water supply data; and Pat Michaels of the State Climatology Office on the historical perspective of drought in VA.

TAC discussion focused on the criteria in the Maryland plan and there was general agreement that while there may be some problems, the criteria represent an appropriate place to start. There was consensus that the criteria should include precipitation deficits and stream flow. The TAC directed Mr. Wagner to work with the Drought Monitoring Task Force to develop a proposal for recommended criteria and levels for the next (February 27, 2003) meeting.

Additional TAC discussion centered on appropriate drought management units. A number of proposals were discussed including political boundaries, river basin boundaries, climatic divisions, and physiographic provinces. In addition, an alternative was presented to have different management units for different types of drought (i.e. agricultural, water supply, and forest fire potential). After much discussion and debate, there was consensus to direct Mr. Wagner to work with the Drought Monitoring Task Force to develop a proposal for recommended management units for the next (February 27, 2003) meeting.

Send any comments regarding this draft meeting summary to swkudlas@deq.state.va.us no later than COB on February 21, 2003. The next meeting will be held on February 27, 2003 at 10 AM in DEQ's Piedmont Regional Office. Directions to PRO can be obtained at <http://www.deq.state.va.us/regions/piedmont.html>.